CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A hydrocyclone separating apparatus comprising:

a housing subdivided into a central chamber provided with an input port and a pair of end chambers having respective outlet ports;

a plurality of hydrocyclones extending across the central chamber between the end chambers, the hydrocyclones each having an intake in the central chamber and an end output in each of the ~~output~~ end chambers, whereby a fluent mixture pumped via the input port into the central chamber is separated by the hydrocyclones into a light fraction exiting one of the end chambers from the respective outlet port and a heavy fraction exiting the other of the end chambers from the respective outlet port; and

a [[layer]] coating of low-friction durable material ~~coating~~ provided on outer surfaces of the hydrocyclones in the central chamber.

2. (original) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein the material is polytetrafluoroethylene.

3. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 2 wherein the [[layer]] coating has a thickness of at least 8 μm.

4. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 2 wherein the [[layer]] coating has a thickness of about 17 μm.

5. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein the [[layer]] material is plastic and includes film-forming resins.

6. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein the [[layer]] material is plastic and the [[layer]] coating includes mineral fillers.

7. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein the outer surfaces underneath the ~~layer is~~ coating are roughened.

8. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 7 wherein the outer surfaces [[is]] are laser-roughened.

9. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 7 wherein the outer surfaces [[is]] are roughened by etching.

10. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in claim 7 wherein the outer surfaces [[is]] are roughened by application of thermally sprayed-on hard granules.